

Applicant Name Sunburst, Town of
Project Name Sunburst Back-up Water Supply Wells

Project Abstract

The Town of Sunburst was given several water wells formerly used by an oil company to supply a refinery at Sunburst. Two wells, one hard water and one soft water, have been used to supply water to the town. Corrosive, high-sulfur water ate through the casing in the soft water well in 2001 resulting in growth of sulfur-reducing and iron-related bacteria. This corrosion disrupted the water supply of the town until the well could be replaced. To avoid future disruptions, Sunburst recently renovated two wells for use as a backup supply, and plugged and abandoned unused wells that posed a possible contamination threat to the Virgelle Aquifer supplying the wells. Because one of the wells could not be renovated and had to be re-drilled, funds were not available to connect the wells to the existing supply. This proposal is for funding to connect the rehabilitated wells to the system and confirm the source of the contamination (dryland salinity is suspected). A civil engineer with experience in municipal water supply will design and supervise the connection. All work will be performed by qualified, bonded contractors. Up-gradient shallow wells will be evaluated to determine the source of the high sulfur content and bacteria which have been found in past samples from some Sunburst wells; steps to prevent future contamination will be recommended.